

# POTOSI JOURNAL

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The Kaiser don't appear to be very keen for a scrap with Woodrow.

The Republican party is going to nominate a Republican for president. Just paste that in your hat.

The Colonel is too much of a fire-eater when war is going on to head a nation of peace-minded people.

All the salary grabbers at Jeff City are "getting their's," but the schools have to wait and depend on what is left.

The Wilson Club in St. Louis must be hard up for supporters from the Democrats, since it is begging Republicans to join.

Eggs and bacon as a daily pabulum aren't so bad, but Shakespeare and Bacon every day becomes monotonous.

Governor Major seems to be taking himself seriously as a vice-presidential candidate, but all the rest of us are laughing over it.

Senator Stone has his finger on the public pulse in Missouri enough to know that there is little enthusiasm in the state over following President Wilson into the European war.

We wonder if President Wilson will now also charge the Irish-American with "pouring the poison of disloyalty" into the arteries of the nation. If he does, he will sure get a come-back, for the Irish have their Irish up.

State Auditor Gordon says he can't make \$11,000,000 revenue at \$17,000,000 in appropriations, and we guess he is right. But let us remember that it was a Democratic legislature that boosted the appropriations to the above figure, and that after the party had promised the people economy in state expenditures.

What does the average farmer in this county earn? The government has figured it out and it comes to boy's wages, or a little more than a dollar a day. Taking the returns from 4,400 farms as a basis on which to form a conclusion, it was found that the average wage of the farmer—that is, what he received for his time, was \$3.7 a year. By dividing the whole number into five classes, it was shown that in the highest class the farmer averaged \$1,321 a year; in the second class, \$642, and on down, until in the fifth class it was shown that the farmer got nothing for his time, and lost, on the average, \$517, which represented interest on money invested in the farm, stock, etc. Does this look like farming pays?

Certain significant events are transpiring in Europe these days. Russia is sending troops to France, which can be taken as meaning nothing else than that France has exhausted her resources in men and cannot hold her lines unless her ranks are filled up from other sources. England cannot send more men to France, for she has gone about as far as she can without resort to conscription, to which the British public does not take kindly. Besides that England has suddenly found herself with a serious revolt in Ireland on her hands, and will need more men there. India, it is said, also menaces her with revolt, which may break out any day. These signs portend a hastening of the end of the war. Germany cannot be beaten. The effort to starve her into submission has failed, and her enemies should be about ready to listen to her peace proposals.

The man who writes the canonical editorials for the Democratic country papers of Missouri has a hard job putting a good face on the affairs of the state government under the Major administration. However, he was apparently quite correct and truthful when he stated recently that the state treasury was

meeting all warrants presented to it for payment "up to the minute." But he failed to state the fact that the state auditor was withholding the issuing of warrants on requisition until he had the information from the state treasurer that the latter had the funds to meet them. Meanwhile, the requisitions against specific appropriations have been piling up in the auditor's office awaiting an accumulation of revenues. The president of the State University shows that that institution has fallen behind over \$83,000 in its expense accounts, for which the auditor refuses to issue warrants because the treasury is busted. No doubt the canned editorial writer will make it appear that this is all a "Republican lie," and that the state treasury is really overflowing with funds.

In reply to our latest note to Great Britain protesting against the continued seizure of neutral ships by that nation, the British come back at us with a reiteration of their right and justification under the circumstances to perpetrate these acts. In assuming this attitude the British, the defendant in the case, arrogate to themselves the right to act as judge and jury in the case, and of course render a verdict favorable to themselves. Our government, with its recognized pro-English leaning, will accept this arbitrary rule of "we do as we please," under protest perhaps, but without calling into force the sterner methods with which it seeks obedience of international law and just regard for neutral rights from Germany. We could long ago have brought England into a frame of mind to deal with us on terms of greater fairness were she not absolutely certain that our government, under the direction of Mr. Wilson, would throw no logs of justice before her in overcoming her enemy in this war. Whatever grivances befalls us from thus allowing England a free hand in the control of all ocean traffic during the war will be nursed for such soothing adjustment as she will allow us after the war is over. But one great certainty underlies all this one-sided concession, and that is, we are going to have a hard time getting back from our British friends what we have given up to them in a weak spirit of favoritism. We have allowed England to make new rules in international relationship that may cost us dear.

Just now the American public is undergoing a systematic robbery that approaches a national outrage and cries out—or should cry out, under the affliction—for governmental succor. We refer to the rise in the cost of living the abnormal conditions in Europe forced upon us, a condition we had no part as a nation in bringing about. Under the stress of emergency Europe is willing to pay any price for the commodities so necessary to human existence and American manufacturers and dealers have not been slow in seizing the advantage of the opportunity. Not only are they making Europe bleed through the nose for the necessities of life and the materials required for war supplies, but the American public also. Why should we submit to allowing the abnormal conditions in Europe double and treble the cost of living here in the United States? Because Europe is willing to pay any price is no excuse for forcing the American consumer to do so. Right here's where we need a little governmental paternalism, a law stepping in to intervene in behalf of the consumer against the robbery of the private profit grabbing. We should demand governmental price fixing on a basis of normal home conditions and reasonable profits. Everyone of us is forced to surrender our substance under this holdup system, which makes a few multimillionaires and grinds the faces of the many. If you don't believe it, just compare your income with the ad-

vance in the cost of things since the war began. We for one are opposed to making the war demand in Europe fix the cost of living here at home. Price fixing by law is the remedy.

## Clark's Love For Wilson.

From the South comes a defiant declaration of war. It comes from the New Orleans "Item," whose editor is the son-in-law of Speaker Champ Clark, and is thus a very significant note. This newspaper devotes a whole page to expressing its sentiments in regard to Mr. Wilson. It cartoons him as a weather-vane, with its weather eye open, whirling about in every direction, as the wind of political popularity happens to blow, always keeping the weather eye fixed upon the nominating convention and the campaign for reelection.

It begins its page on Wilsonian with this statement: "We shall call a very competent witness to prove that President Wilson has faced both ways about upon every important public question which has come up since he became President. That witness is 'Woodrow Wilson.'" The newspaper then proceeds to give several columns of Mr. Wilson's varying declarations and positions, quoting the President himself to prove his changes of front. It then sums up the matter thus: "To us it seems that President Wilson has no fixed principles or convictions upon any subject under the sun, and that he is consistent only in advocating anything that promises to promote his reelection and his personal ambitions."

Nothing more bitter than this could be said in the fire of a close campaign and by an opposing political party. But this is said in cold blood at a time when no political campaign is being waged, when it is settled that Mr. Wilson is to receive a nomination by his party, when there is no one within the Democratic ranks who is competing against him. It is said too by one of the active Democratic newspapers of the South, one that has been a zealous supporter of all things Democratic—Philadelphia Press.

## The Changing Dollar.

Eight hundred and fifty years ago, in England wheat sold for 5 cents per bushel, hogs for 5 cents apiece, cows for \$1.50 each, and a good horse could be bought for \$5. There are no figures on the wages of the average laboring man at that time, but a hundred years later they were only 4 cents per day.

Three hundred and fifty years ago, in England wheat sold for 15 cents per bushel, hogs for \$1.25 cents apiece, cows for \$1 each, and a good horse could be bought for from \$10 to \$15. At that time the average laboring man received 5 cents a day.

A little over one hundred years ago wheat sold for \$1.75 per bushel, hogs for \$25 apiece, cows for \$8 each, and it required \$100 to buy a good horse. The average working man received 35 cents a day.

During the period of time extending from the eleventh century to the nineteenth, the value of agricultural products increased about twenty five times. In other words, the purchasing power of money at the close of this period was about one-twenty-fifth of what it was at the beginning.

been even more rapid, had it not been for the opening up of Canadian, Australian and Argentine lands at this time. For nearly a thousand years, the dollar has depreciated, and prices have advanced. This decrease has not been uniformly continuous. There have been many fluctuations for periods of twenty and thirty years. The main tendency has ever been for a cheaper dollar and a higher cost of living.—Wallace's Farmer.

## Humanizing the Business Letter.

Some fellow "down East" has undertaken to humanize business letters. I am wondering just how this world benefactor will humanize the following: "If we do not receive your remittance by return mail we shall place the account in the hands of our legal department."—Pea Ridge (Ark.) Post.

How will this do for the human touch? Our legal department tells us that it is languishing for something to do. Would you mind the least bit if we gave them your account to work on? Our cow has a new calf and our baby has a new tooth. We have planted our garden and the peas are up so high. Of course if you have any objection to us giving the account to the legal department just signify by sending the cash, which our butter man desires very much, as we owe him for last month's supply.—Fort Smith (Ark.) Times Record.

## Probating Wills Before Death.

A Columbus (Ohio) judge makes the suggestion that wills be probated before death. He would permit a man to go into court with his will properly executed, and demonstrate his competency to execute such a testament. It would not then be possible after his death for disappointed heirs to set up that he was "mentally incapable," or subject to "undue influence."

Under the present practice wills are often broken after prolonged litigation of one or the other of these grounds. Apparently, it is not a difficult task to show that any dead man was mentally deficient while alive. But few heirs would have the hardihood to face the living maker of the will in court, unless he was really incapable of devising his property.

The effect of such a law would be to relieve the courts of a vast amount of vexatious litigation. It would also permit a man of sound mind to devise his property precisely as he wished, so long as his plans did not run counter to public policy. No one would wring the drapery of his couch about him and he down for the last long sleep in the fear that his name would be tarnished by his avaricious survivors.—From the Minneapolis Journal.

## Joe's Diagnosis.

A colored man entered the general store of a small Ohio town and complained to the storekeeper that a ham he had purchased there a few days before had proved not to be good.

"The ham is all right, Joe," insisted the storekeeper.

"No it ain't, boss," insisted the other. "Dat ham's sure bad."

"How can that be," continued the storekeeper, "when it was cured only last week?"

Joe reflected solemnly for a moment and then suggested:

"Maybe it's done had a relapse."

Medical Lectures for Women.

A working knowledge of medicine, first aid, and personal hygiene is offered to women by the Woman's Medical college, Philadelphia, which has outlined a series of lectures for women on the subject of medicine.

## COLONY HAS FEW INDUSTRIES

Belgian Congo, After Thirty Years, is Still in the Early Stages of Development.

Belgian Congo, founded thirty years ago, is still in the early stage of development. So far practically no manufacturing industries have yet been established and, aside from the important copper mines in the Katanga district, the only large industrial enterprises are the railways and river transportation services. It may be said that all business activities in the colony are devoted to the collection of tropical products—rubber, ivory, gum copal, palm oil and kernels, cacao, etc.—and the railway and river services are in reality only accessories to these activities, having been established primarily to aid in the transportation of these products to the seaports. The gathering of rubber in Congo has never recovered its former activity, and in all probability will never again be so rich a source of income to the colony as it was previous to 1912. The cultivated product from the plantations in the East Indies is superior in quality to the wild rubber of the Congo, and, owing to the active competition of the larger plantations and better location as to shipping facilities, it may be placed upon the market at lower rates.

## RECOGNIZED VOICE OF THIEF

Blind Pencil Seller Able to "Identify" Man Who Had Stolen Small Sum From Him.

"Jimmy" Moriarty, a blind pencil seller, identified by a voice a man whose face he could not recognize. A few weeks ago John Reggioni went to the blind man's little room, offered to sell him two chickens and discovered he was really blind. He concluded Moriarty was a miser, too.

New Year's eve he came to collect. He did not knock at the door, but when Moriarty approached, he test the old man to the floor with a blow. Reggioni, accompanied by several others, was taken to the blind man. Moriarty, after the fourth man had said, "Any chickens today?" shouted, "That's him."

Reggioni then confessed he had stolen 17 cents.

The blind man said later that after hearing Reggioni's mother speak he would not prosecute.—New York Dispatch Philadelphia Ledger.

The Ruffed Grouse, Too.

The pinpoint grouse, or prairie chicken, is by no means the only desirable game bird whose extinction is threatened in Minnesota. The ruffed grouse, or partridge, is even greater danger. Its growing scarcity has been noted by many travelers along country roads, who are accustomed to seeing many of these birds feeding along the way, especially in August. This year very few were seen, where heretofore they have been numerous.

It is probable that the automobile is in large part responsible for the rapid disappearance of the ruffed grouse, for the automobile has completely changed the conditions under which the bird is hunted. In former days, hunters went out perhaps once a week, where now they can go every afternoon. The radius of their activity has also been greatly increased, so that places that were once beyond their reach are now within easy motor distance. Thus what were practically game refuges are no longer such.—Minneapolis Journal.

Mr. Coover's Suffering.

That birds have suffered from the devastating fire of the opposing hosts in Europe there can be no question.

Captain Crawshaw bears testimony of this in a letter to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Harriers, as has noticed in France, have come in for "hot times" when gun positions are located in low bottom lands where the favorite haunts of these birds. "Partridges," he adds, "sometimes are covered by the bursting shells."

Another relates the distress of a pair of swallows that returned in the spring to the cottage which had hitherto afforded them harborage, only to find it a heap of ruins. After desolately flying round and round, as if unable to believe the evidence of their own eyes, they eventually discovered a suitable site for their nursery in a small military hut. A great number of such huts, it is pleasing to learn, have been used for this purpose.

"The Sins of the Fathers."

Mr. Lloyd-George's son, Capt. Richard Lloyd-George, whose sudden promotion to a lieutenant colonelcy was officially denied recently, has inherited a fine gift of oratory from his famous father.

When he was little more than a boy, he once deputized for his parent at a public meeting and convinced the audience by the manner in which he accounted for his presence there.

Responding to a vote of thanks, young Mr. Richard said that Mr. Lloyd-George was unwaveringly prevented from speaking that day, and he added gravely:

"There is a verse which states that the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children, and—that is the reason I'm here!"—Pears.

Just Talking About It.

Hogan-Whig imagined himself a second Clay during the campaign, but after the election his name was mud.

Tommy—Oh, I don't know. Had dried up considerably.

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## FORESIGHT MADE HIM RICH

Missouri Gruggist's Investment in Quinine Before the War Proved Good Speculation.

One does not have to live in a large town to find an opportunity to make a fortune. The opportunities are everywhere. It is only the man with his eyes open who sees them.

Gruggist, a resident of Rochester, Mo., who remembered the demand for quinine during the Civil war, had his eyes open, for he bought 10,000 ounces of quinine a little more than a year ago at 14 cents an ounce. His judgment proved correct, for the quinine that cost him \$1,400 is now worth \$25,000, and it may go higher.

He has had nothing to do with increasing the price. It is the demand that is putting it up. A philanthropist might argue that it is a crime to make money out of the necessities of the sick; but philanthropists who refuse to turn an honest penny when the opportunity offers are few and far between. Some of them do not indulge in philanthropy as a recreation until they have accumulated a large surplus by squeezing the last cent of profit from every transaction. In the meantime the Dismitts of big towns and little ones are doing their best to qualify themselves for benevolence by making hay while death wields the scythe.

Unique Heating System.

Whether it is practical or not, the new system of heating for homes devised by a Swedish inventor certainly has the distinction of being unique. It is designed for houses of from four to ten rooms and is especially intended for localities where electrical current is inexpensive. The system consists of two tanks, a motor-driven rotary pump and the necessary radiators and piping. One of the tanks is placed in the attic of the house and is thermally insulated. In it are placed the heating units, which, normally, are only operated at night, when the rate for electric current is low. In the morning the units are disconnected from the supply circuit and the water down the piping and through the radiators by the force of gravity collected in a receiving tank in the basement, from where it is pumped out and returned to the attic.

Much Beef Goes to Waste.

Although various estimates place the number of cattle in Paraguay at the way from one to four million head, the cattle industry, with untold possibilities, is scarcely out of the stage when the animals are slaughtered for their hides alone. While all the world is clamoring for meat, cattle in Paraguay sell for but little more than what their skins will bring.

Improvement.

"We are getting up a symposium on the subject 'Is Marriage a Failure?'" we remarked to the celebrated actress whom we had been sent to interview, "and we would like to hear four views on the matter."

"Dear me!" she exclaimed. "How can you expect me to throw my light on such a question? Why, I have been married only five or six times!"

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